

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Updates

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# **Breaking News**

## **Apply Online!**

Beginning Saturday, May 28, 2011, citizens across Colorado were able to submit an application online for cash, food, and medical assistance at <a href="https://www.coloardo.gov/PEAK">www.coloardo.gov/PEAK</a>.

PEAK creates one additional channel through which Colorado's adults, children and families can access the self-sufficiency benefits they need to thrive.

Partner training dates are listed below under Partner Support.

## **Provider Payment Delay Update**

The proposed provider payment delay was not in the FY 2010-11 budget and was not in the FY 2011-12 budget. There will not be payment delays this fiscal year and they are not planned for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011. There is always a possibility of changes in the budget based on the economy.

For more information, please contact <u>Joanne Lindsay</u>.

### **CO-CHAMP Funding**

As of April 13, 2011, the HRSA State Health Access Program (SHAP) has been cut from the 2011 federal budget. This eliminated the federal appropriation to HHS and HRSA for Colorado's SHAP grant, CO-CHAMP, for Year 3 funding (beginning September 1, 2011).

The Department is applying for a one year 'No Cost Extension' from HRSA, requesting that Colorado continue to use unspent funds from the first two years of the grant with an official end date of August 31, 2012.

For more information, please contact Megan Wood.

## **Improving Health Outcomes**

# Free Text Message Program for Pregnant Women and New Mothers

The text4baby program has been extended through 2013. Spread the word to your clients, program participants, and patients about this free mobile educational program designed to give pregnant women and new mothers critical health information by text. While not everyone has access to the internet, 90 percent of Americans have a mobile phone.



Women can sign up for the service by texting BABY to 511411 (or BEBE for Spanish to the same number). Once signed up, they will receive free "Short Message Service" text messages each week, timed to their due date or baby's date of birth.

These messages focus on a variety of topics critical to maternal and child health. The messages also connect women to prenatal and infant care services.

More information and frequently asked questions about the program, please <u>click here</u>.

#### **CDPHE Center for Healthy Living**

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Source for Healthy Living Web site serves as a source for news, resources and research on healthy living and chronic disease prevention. Local health agencies, community partners and providers throughout the state can find relevant and consistent chronic disease prevention and management information from one centralized, trusted source. Please visit <a href="https://www.cohealthsource.org">www.cohealthsource.org</a> for more information.

To learn more about the CDPHE Healthy Communities Initiative, please visit <a href="http://www.cohealthsource.org/programs/healthy-communities.aspx">http://www.cohealthsource.org/programs/healthy-communities.aspx</a>. This initiative works to connect communities with tools, supports and funding to improve health outcomes by addressing the social, environmental and economic barriers to the health of their residents. Working with community leaders to make sure neighborhoods have walkable sidewalks and safe bike routes, easy access to mass transit, nearby grocery stores with fresh produce and nearby green spaces where families can play together goes a long way toward improving health, preventing chronic disease and reducing health care costs.

For more information, please contact Tara Trujillo.

#### Teen Pregnancy & Dropout Prevention Program Reauthorized

SB 177, the Teen Pregnancy & Dropout Prevention Program, reauthorized the state's program that allows qualified Medicaid providers to deliver pregnancy prevention programming to at-risk teens. The goal of the program is to prevent unintended teen pregnancy and pregnancy-related school dropouts.

Participating communities raise 10 percent of the costs of the program and federal funds cover the remaining 90 percent. Programs must use evidence-based sexual health education models that help youth prevent the onset of sexual activity, reduce the frequency of encounters or the number of partners, and increase consistent, correct contraceptive use among those who remain sexually active. The bill also requires participating providers to report the effectiveness of their program, increasing transparency and accountability around efforts to reduce unintended teen pregnancy. For more information, please contact Lisa Keenan.

#### **Accountable Care Collaborative**



All seven Regional Care Collaborative Organizations' contracts have been awarded and program implementation has begun. This <a href="mailto:map">map</a> illustrates the RCCOs and their corresponding counties. The Department sent enrollment <a href="letters">letters</a> to 521 Medicaid clients in Weld County (RCCO 2- Colorado Access) in April notifying them of their enrollment in the ACC program effective May 1. Only five clients chose to opt-out of the program.

For a June start date, the Department sent letters to approximately 4,000 more clients living in Northeast Colorado (RCCO 2- Colorado Access); approximately 5,000 thousand clients on the Western Slope and in Larimer County (RCCO 1- Rocky Mountain Health Plan); and approximately 5,900 clients in Southern Colorado, including Pueblo, Huerfano and Las Animas Counties (RCCO 4-Integrated Community Health Partners).

If you would like more information, please contact <u>Sarah Roberts</u>.

# **Partner Support**

#### **PEAK Toolkit and Training Materials**

A wide range of training materials and tools have been created to help you, your community partners, and your clients use PEAK. These include posters, brochures, and quick reference guides. All materials can be downloaded from the PEAK Website. Select the **For Community Partners** or **For Counties** tab.

#### **Training Opportunities**

The PEAK Outreach Team will be at the upcoming trainings listed below:

#### Health Care Policy and Financing Regional Conferences

Denver – June 6 and 7 at the University of Denver

Durango – June 20 and 21 at the Durango Mountain Resort

Lamar – June 27 and 28 at the Prowers County Department of Social Services

# **Employment Opportunities**

Applying for state jobs has just become easier! Applications are electronic, you will receive updates, and you do not need to answer any written questions until it is determined that you meet the minimum qualifications. Check out the new <u>Web site</u> and our jobs.

The Department offers a competitive benefits package that includes the Public Employees Retirement Account (PERA), a 401K or 457 retirement plan, health and dental insurance options, 10 holidays, accrual of paid sick and vacation time.

The Department is a tobacco-free campus.

## **Enrollment**

In April 2011, 579,439 clients were on Medicaid and 69,488 clients were on CHP+. Monthly numbers for enrollment and expenditures can be found on the Department's Web site, <u>Budget</u>.